SCUTELLARIA NERVOSA (LAMIACEAE), A SPECIES OF SKULLCAP NEW TO MICHIGAN

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Scutellaria nervosa Pursh (veined skullcap) is a spring-flowering perennial herb occurring in rich woods from New Jersey to southern Ontario, Illinois, and Iowa, south to Virginia, the mountains of western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee, Alabama, and Louisiana (Epling 1942, Gleason 1952). It is distinguished from the other species of *Scutellaria* occurring in the northeastern United States and adjacent Canada by its solitary flowers in the axils of normal foliage leaves and its sessile or nearly sessile ovate-lanceolate to round-ovate leaves, as well as its uppermost sterile leaves which are 2–4.5 cm long and conspicuously serrate. The flowers are about 9–11 mm long, thus distinctly smaller than in *S. galericulata* and larger than in *S. parvula*. Gleason (1952) recognizes two varieties of *S. nervosa*: var. *nervosa*, which has leaves with strigose upper surfaces, and var. *calvifolia* Fern. which has leaves glabrous above. Despite the presence of *S. nervosa* in De Kalb County of northeastern Indiana (Deam 1940), Kankakee County of northeastern Illinois (Mohlenbrock & Ladd 1978), and two sites in Essex County of southeastern Ontario (Morton & Pryer 1987), until now it has not been collected in Michigan (E.G. Voss, pers. comm.).

On July 22, 1989, *S. nervosa* var. *calvifolia* (*Fritsch 1141*, MICH) was collected from a rich woodland near the St. Joseph River, 2.5 km north of the Ohio border, in Section 31, T8S, R3W, Hillsdale County, Michigan. The locality originally may have been part of the floodplain, but presently it is separated from the river by a cultivated field and two roads. A small swamp borders the locality to the north and a beech-maple woods to the east. The soil at the locality is a black loam with little or no organic layer. Associates seen on August 7, 1990, included *Acer saccharum* Marshall, *Anemone canadensis* L., *Carya cordiformis* (Wangenh.) K. Koch, *Circaea lutetiana* L., *Cornus alternifolia* L. f., *C. stolonifera* Michaux, *Cryptotaenia canadensis* (L.) DC., *Galium triflorum* Michaux, *Geranium maculatum* L., *Geum canadense* Jacq., *Laportea canadensis* (L.) Wedd., *Ostrya virginiana* (Miller) K. Koch, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (L.) Planchon, *Phlox divaricata* L., *Quercus rubra* L., *Rosa multiflora* Murray, *Sanguinaria canadensis* L., *Sium suave* Walter, *Smilacina racemosa* (L.) Desf., *Smilax lasioneura* Hooker, *S. tamnoides* L., *Tilia americana* L., *Ulmus americana* L., *U. thomasii* Sarg., and *Verbesina alternifolia* (L.) Britton. At that time only thirteen stems of the plant were counted within a total area of not more than 0.1 m^2 . Searches of nearby localities with similar habitat have not revealed any other populations of this species.

Scutellaria nervosa is considered rare in Canada, Arkansas, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia (Morton & Pryer 1987). In addition, it has been collected only rarely from northeastern Illinois (Mohlenbrock & Ladd 1978) and northern Indiana (Deam 1940). All these areas are located on the edge of the species' range. Therefore, the finding of a small, apparently isolated population of *S. nervosa* in extreme southern Michigan is consistent with the distribution pattern previously documented for this species, since Michigan is situated at the species' northern boundary. Given the rarity of *S. nervosa* in and adjacent to Michigan, any additional discoveries of populations in Michigan would be significant. These populations most likely will appear in the floodplains and moist woods in the extreme southern part of the state.

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